



Ecological Sites

Information Organization and Decision-Making

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Soil Ecology and Ecological Site Inventory



SOME ECOLOGICAL SITE BACKGROUND

- FOREST SITES (Korstian 1919)
- RANGE SITES (Dykesterhuis 1948)
- CRITERIA FOR GROUPING SOIL PROPERTIES
AND DESCRIBING VEGETATION DYNAMICS



Ecological Sites

- Conceptual groupings
 - Defined by Us
- Drivers include climate, landscape position, soil properties
- Responses include dynamics of soils and vegetation-can be reduced to a set of 'behavior syndromes'
- Interpretations
- A way to organize information spatially

Ecological Site Description Components

- SITE CHARACTERISTICS-ABIOTIC (climate, soils, landscape position)
- STATE AND TRANSITION MODELS-BIOTIC (soil/vegetation interactions, drivers of change-wildlife, climate, management)
- INTERPRETATIONS-VARIETY OF USES
- REFERENCES

ESDs for Conservation Planning

Identifying objectives using a 'multiple potential' approach

Each state has a
unique set of
ecosystem
services

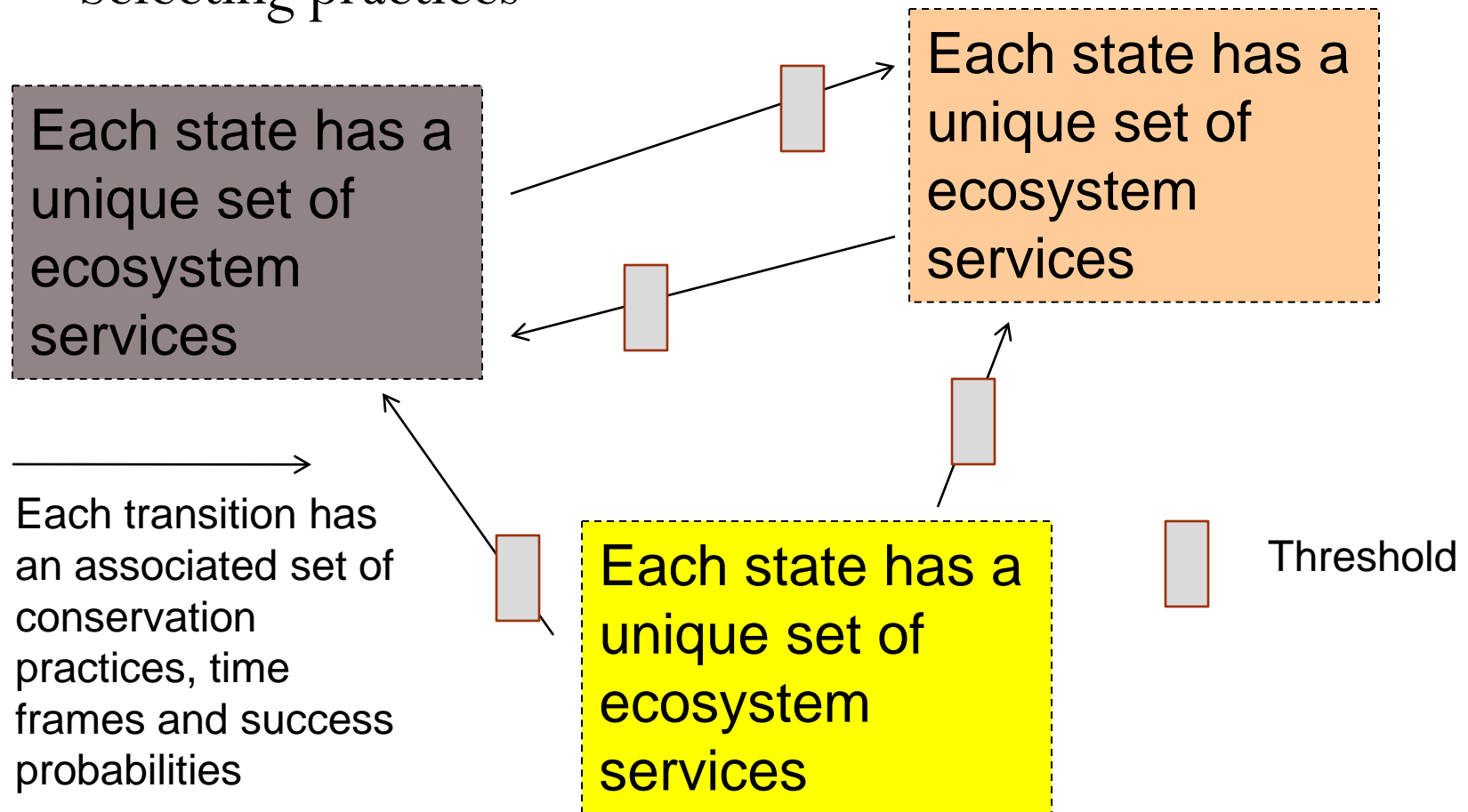
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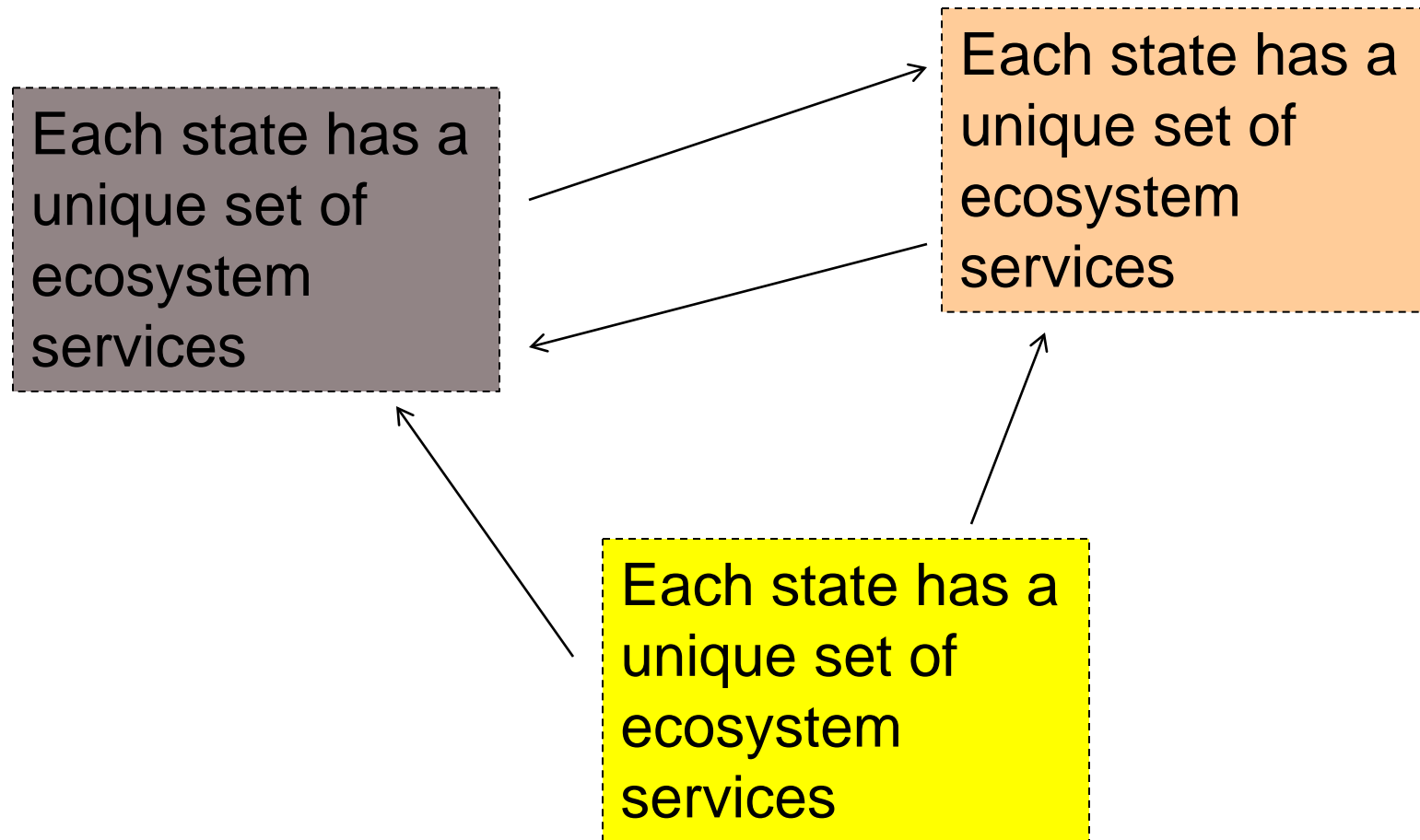
Identifying objectives

Selecting practices



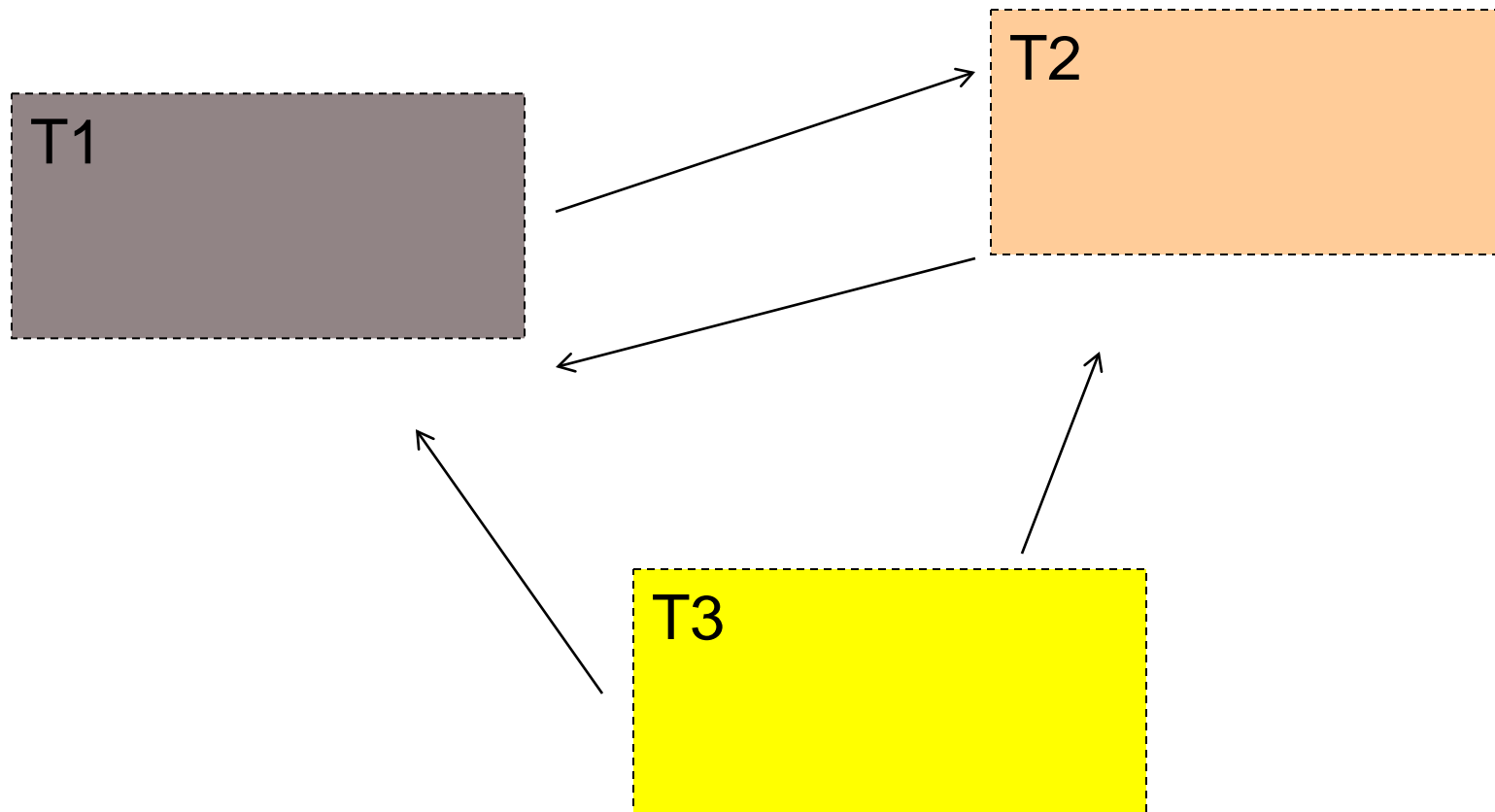
ESDs for Policy Development

Resource allocation, targets for ecosystem services, Cost benefit ratios, probabilities of success, climate change response



ESDs for Monitoring and Assessment

What is the potential, direction of change, cause and effect
Attributes associated with each state



CHALLENGES

next 12-18mo

- Internal Consistency/Inventory
- Procedures, guidelines, training
- Database development and analysis